

Message Text

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45

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 H-03

NSC-10 OIC-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 116268

R 301717Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5178

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AHEMBASSY CARACAS 0200

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UESHTW/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0364

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

RUFNPSWXAHEMBASSY PARIS 9947

RUFH

O/AMEHBASSY ROME 4981

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS 2870

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ILO, UK
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL
LABOR OFFICE: A PRELIMINARY TRADE UNION VIEW

REF: STATE 204762, LONDON 12386

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CYRIL PLANT, UK WORKER MEMBER OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, HAS INDICATED THAT WHILE HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHOM TO SUPPORT AS ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL, HE IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD KOKU (NIGERIA) FOR THE POSITION. END SUMMARY

2. PLANT INFORMED US THAT HE BELIEVES KOKU (NIGERIA) WOULD MAKE AN ADMIRABLE DIRECTOR GENERAL. HE CHARACTERIZED KOKU AS "ONE OF THE BEST CHAIRMEN OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY" IN HIS EXPERIENCE. HIS ELECTION WOULD ALSO MEAN, PLANT SAID, THAT AN OUTSIDER WOULD BE BROUGHT IN AND THUS MITIGATE THE "BITTER FIGHTING" WITHIN ILO WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE ELECTION OF JENKS. (PLANT PREFERS AN "OUTSIDER" CANDIDATE, NOTING THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JENKS, ALL PREVIOUS DIRECTOR GENERALS WERE DRAWN FROM OUTSIDE THE ILO.)

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF KOKU'S COMPETITION WITH TREVOEDJRE (DAHOMEY) FOR THE JOB MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FORMER TO GAIN A VICTORY, PLANT SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT JOHN MANNERING (CANADA) AS THE NEXT POSSIBLE SOLUTION. (PLANT IS NOT SURE WHETHER MANNERING WISHES TO BE A CANDIDATE.)

4. THE BRITISH TRADE UNIONIST IS BITTERLY OPPOSED TO CANDIDACY OF BLANCHARD (THE FRENCH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL). APART FROM QUESTION OF BLANCHARD'S "INSIDER" ROLE, PLANT CHARGED THAT, DURING THE CAMPAIGN WHICH LED TO JENKS' ELECTION, BLANCHARD USED UNDERHANDED METHODS IN HIS OWN EFFORTS TO GAIN THE POST. AS FOR BOLIN (THE SWEDISH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, PLANT CHARACTERIZED HIM AS "NOT HAVING THE STATUS OR ERUDITION FOR THE POST" BUT IF THE ILO WORKERS GROUP WERE TO SUPPORT HIM, HE, TOO, WOULD GO ALONG.

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5. PLANT SAID HE HAD A VERY HIGH REGARD FOR AMMAR (THE EGYPTIAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL) WHOM HE TERMED "FIRST CLASS" AND COULD ENVISION AMMAR AS A POSSIBLE INTERIM DIRECTOR GENERAL UNTIL 1975 IN TTFE EVENT THERE WAS WHAT AMOUNTED TO A DEADLOCK IN TRYING TO AGREE ON A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION. (HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT, IF AMMAR

WERE TO STAY ON, THIS WOULD EFFECTIVELY BLOCK THE
BLANCHARD CANDIDACY.)

6. PLANT ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO DECISION SHOULD BE
TAKEN AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY
BUT RATHER AT ITS FEBRUARY MEETING. HE IS CLEARLY OP-
POSED TO ANY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE ILO
CONFERENCE IN JUNE TO DECIDE THE SUCCESSION BECAUSE AS
HE EXPLAINED, THIS WOULD MEAN "THE COMMUNISTS WOULD
HAVE THE POWER OF DECISION" IN VIEW OF THEIR INFLUENCE
OVER THE ASIANS AND THE AFRICANS.

ANNENBERG

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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